



General Assembly

February Session, 2004

Raised Bill No. 5588

LCO No. 2030

02030_____ENV

Referred to Committee on Environment

Introduced by:
(ENV)

AN ACT CONCERNING FORESTRY MANAGEMENT.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Assembly convened:

1 Section 1. Section 23-20 of the general statutes is repealed and the
2 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2004*):

3 The Commissioner of Environmental Protection shall administer the
4 statutes relating to forestry and the protection of forests. [He] The
5 commissioner may employ such field and office assistants as may be
6 necessary for the execution of his or her duties. [He] The commissioner
7 may, from time to time, publish the forestry laws of the state and other
8 literature of general interest and practical value pertaining to forestry.
9 [He] The commissioner may enter into cooperation with departments
10 of the federal government for the promotion of forest resource
11 management and protection within the state. [He] The commissioner
12 may, with the assistance of the State Forester, develop and administer
13 plans for the protection and management of publicly-owned
14 woodlands. Such plans shall include, but not be limited to proposals
15 for the establishment of forest plantations and the marketing of forest
16 products. [He] The commissioner shall apply to have publicly-owned
17 woodlands or products from such woodlands certified or licensed

18 under one or more of the following: (1) The sustainable Forestry
19 Initiative Program, (2) the American Tree Farm System, (3) the
20 Canadian Standards Association's Sustainable Management System
21 Standards, (4) the Finnish Standard, (5) the Forest Stewardship
22 Council, (6) the Pan-European Forest Certification Program, (7) the
23 Swedish Standards, (8) the United Kingdom Woodland Assurance
24 Scheme, or (9) the Smart Wood Program, as administered by the
25 Rainforest Alliance. The commissioner shall implement any
26 sustainable forestry practice necessary for such certification or
27 licensure. The commissioner may accept any gifts, donations or
28 bequests for the purposes of applying for and obtaining such
29 certification or licensure. The commissioner may harvest forest
30 products from woodlands owned by the state and take such other
31 measures as he or she deems necessary for their efficient management
32 and protection, may sell wood, timber and other products from any
33 state woodlands whenever he or she deems such sales desirable and
34 may develop recreational facilities in the woodlands managed by the
35 Department of Environmental Protection. [He] The commissioner shall
36 charge no less than ten dollars per cord for any such wood or timber
37 sold as fuel. [He] The commissioner may rent state forest property and
38 buildings thereon under his or her jurisdiction for a period not
39 exceeding twenty-five years, provided any lease for such property and
40 building for a term of more than ten years shall be subject to the
41 review and approval of the State Properties Review Board. The
42 proceeds of such sales, rentals and any receipts resulting from
43 management of the state forests, or from reimbursements from other
44 state departments or state institutions, shall be deposited in the
45 General Fund in accordance with the provisions of section 4-32,
46 provided the amount of annual proceeds in excess of eight hundred
47 thousand dollars derived from the sale of wood, timber and other
48 products from publicly-owned woodlands shall be deposited in the
49 Conservation Fund, as established in section 22a-27h. Expenditures
50 incurred by the commissioner for the protection, management and
51 development of the forests, the preparation and marketing of forest

52 products and the acquisition of land for the extension and completion
53 of the state forests as provided in section 23-21 shall be paid with
54 moneys appropriated from the General Fund. The provisions of this
55 section shall not apply to land owned or managed by the state on
56 which forest resource management measures may be restricted by
57 deed, statute, or incompatible use. As used in this section, woodland
58 means land owned or managed by a state agency and stocked with
59 forest tree species not less than six hundred stems per acre and at least
60 one year old.

This act shall take effect as follows:	
Section 1	October 1, 2004

Statement of Purpose:

To encourage sustainable forestry management of state woodlands while generating funds for the protection of such lands.

[Proposed deletions are enclosed in brackets. Proposed additions are indicated by underline, except that when the entire text of a bill or resolution or a section of a bill or resolution is new, it is not underlined.]